

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 30 as follows:

--Specific mutations in amino acid sequence are presented herein as "Xaa₁nXaa₂" where Xaa₁ is the original amino acid residue before mutation, n is the residue number and Xaa₂ is the mutant amino acid. The abbreviation "Xaa" may be the three letter or single letter amino acid code. A mutation in single letter code is represented, for example, by X₁nX₂ where X₁ and X₂ are the same as Xaa₁ and Xaa₂, respectively. The amino acid residues for Hepatitis B virus DNA polymerase are numbered with the residue methionine in the motif "Tyr Met Asp Asp (YMDD)," being residue number 550, which corresponds to residue number 150 of SEQ ID NO: 8.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 18 as follows:

--Figures 3A-3K ~~are is a~~ representations of the nucleotide sequence from various strains of HBV encoding the surface antigen. The amino acid sequence of the surface antigen beginning at amino acid 108 is shown above the nucleotide sequence. Nucleotide sequences 329616/HPBADR1CG, 221499/HPBADW3, 221500/HPBCG, 62280/XXHEPAV, 59439/HBVAYWE, 59429/HBVAYWC, 59418/HBVADW2, 59408/HBVADRM, 59404/HBVADR4, 329640/HPBAYW, 313780/HBVAYWMCG, 229417/HPBADW1 are set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9-20, respectively.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 28 as follows:

--Figures 5A-5F ~~are is~~ the representation of the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO: 21) of HBV 1.28 genome.--

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 30 as follows:

--~~Figure 5B is the representation of the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO: 22) of HBV 1.5 genome.~~--

Please add the following paragraph beginning at page 11, line 9:

--Figures 14A-14F are the representation of the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO: 22) of
HBV 1.5 genome.--